

C. HUD-VASH Vouchers

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the VA Supportive Housing Program (HUD-VASH) partner to provide permanent, supportive housing and treatment services for homeless veterans. Each VA Hospital has a HUD-VASH Coordinator to oversee the HUD-VASH vouchers available to veterans in their respective areas. Generally, HUD-VASH Vouchers are distributed directly to the local county housing authority. Here are the HUD-VASH Coordinators that serve Maryland veterans:

1. VA Maryland Health Care System (covers central Maryland and eastern shore)
Kelley Camarote – Kelley.camarote@va.gov - 443-252-0648
2. DC VA Medical Center (covers Montgomery, Prince George's, and southern Maryland)
Kevin Morton – kevin.morton@va.gov – 202-636-7660 ext. 5366
3. Martinsburg VA Medical Center – covers western Maryland
Tonia Canfield – tonia.canfield@va.gov – 304-263-0811 ext. 4638

Here is the information we have on current voucher status:

Baltimore City has 305 vouchers – 15 openings at this time (all others are in use by veterans)

Baltimore County – 225 vouchers – 6 openings

Cecil County – 95 vouchers – 8 openings

Montgomery County – 80 vouchers – no openings

Prince George's County – 150 vouchers – 3 openings

According to Ms. Canfield, there are no vouchers currently available in western Maryland.

D. VA Grant and Per Diem Program

The Homeless Providers Grant and Per Diem Program provides grants and per diem payments (as funding is available) to help public and nonprofit organizations establish and operate supportive housing and service centers for homeless Veterans.

The following Maryland organizations currently participate in the Grant and Per Diem Program: Arundel House of Hope, Inc., Baltimore Station, Inc., Chesapeake Health Education Program, Inc., Jobs Housing and Recover, Inc., Maryland Center for Veterans Education and Training, Inc., Project PLASE, Inc., The Cecil County Men's Shelter, Inc., Way Station, Inc.

E. Families First Program (DHCD)

This is a self-sufficiency program for veterans in Prince George's County. The program assists veterans with children that are either homeless or at imminent risk of homelessness. Through this program, DHCD will be able to assist approximately 40 veterans and their families by providing a stable living situation through rental subsidies. The family will contribute 30% of their income toward rent, and DHCD will pay the remainder for up to 3 years. Through a partnership with Friendship Place, a non-profit currently working with veterans in the area, the veterans will be enrolled in a self-sufficiency/case management program that will connect the veteran with community resources such as workforce training, career development, childcare, and transportation. The goal is that upon graduation, the family will be able to afford a Fair Market Rental unit and, therefore, achieve self-sufficiency.

This program is already serving 7 families – 3 of who were homeless at the time of entry. In total, the program is currently serving 33 individuals, including spouses and children. All families are now stably housed and working toward self-sufficiency goals.